

SOME LOVABLE SPINSTERS.

Quaint Old Women Who Never Requested Ridicule Levelled at "Old Maids."

I have only to think of the adjectives and similes which have been contributed to the language on our account...

"Every right-minded person," as my old aunt used to say, "should resent this injustice."

No one had ever asked the hands of the three old-maid sisters in marriage, because when they grew up, there were never any young men in the neighborhood who could ask.

JACKSON THE FRONTIERSMAN.

Tall, lank, uncouth personage in singular dress and rough manners.

Of this frontier demagogue Andrew Jackson was the very personification. He was born in the backwoods of the Carolinas in the midst of the turbulent democracy that preceded the revolution.

A Milk Epidemic.

Of the typhoid epidemics traced to milk, one of the most typical was that at Springfield, Mass., where, in July and August of 1892, 150 cases occurred.

Growth of Islam.

At the present day, on the best authorities, there are 250,000,000 Mussulmans in the world.

THE VANITY OF MAN.

It is Far Greater Than That of Women, Says One Who Makes Strong Argument.

"Are men vain?" asked the woman who observes. And, according to the Chicago Tribune, she answered herself by saying: "I should say so."

There are some qualities that from time immemorial have been conceded to be the exclusive property of the weaker sex," she continued.

"I will not strive to deny that the accusations have much truth in them, but I am not willing that she should bear the burden alone.

"I know another man who has remarkably small, well-shaped feet, and he invariably wears his shoes a size too small to accentuate the fact.

"Why do the majority of men wear clean-shaven faces? Why, forsooth, because they have discovered that they look anywhere from five to ten years younger than they would with a beard and mustache.

"I know a woman who delights in telling a story about selling a number of pieces of furniture, and among them was a mirror.

"Among my friends is a bachelor who takes such pride in his finger nails that his constant and unremitting attention to them during his hours in the office have earned for him the nickname of 'The Manicure.'

"As an example of men's susceptibility to flattery I can adduce nothing stronger than the case of a book-keeper who was becoming stoop-shouldered.

"Did you ever notice the actions of Charles when he sees Clara in the distance? He straightens his necktie, gives his mustache a twist, braces his shoulders up, and throws a 'killing' expression into his eyes.

"At a little informal evening company recently I sat next a woman who designated her husband as 'My Johnny.' In the course of the evening she remarked to me: 'Did you ever see a finer display of ankles, fancy hosiery, and patent leathers?'

"But the limit of male vanity reached was told me the other day in 'Willie, who would have dimples.' Now, why he wants them must forever remain a mystery in his breast, but he wants them and must have them, for he is willing to submit to a surgical operation to get them.

"Surely the sage of yore spoke for all time and all people when he said: 'All is vanity.'"

Turkish Monk Settlement.

On the east point of the sacred Mount Athos, on the Turkish peninsula, Chalkidike, is a settlement of 6,000 monks, scattered among 230 monasteries, the whole forming a monastic republic in the dominions of the sultan, to whom they are tributary.

A Lawyer's Foresight.

"John," said the retired lawyer to his coachman, "aren't the horses trying to reach me?"

THE SERBIAN "SLAVA."

Descriptive Account of a Curious Religious Ceremony of the Servians.

The "slava" or family saint's day, is a peculiarly Serbian institution. If one is ever in doubt about the nationality of Slavs inquire if they observe the "slava."

On their "slava" day Serbian families expect to be visited by all their friends and acquaintances. A book is published in Belgrade tabulating all the saints of the various families, and every diplomatic agent who desires to keep on good terms with the people must study it carefully.

A recent day was the orthodox Michaelmas, which shares with St. Nicholas' day prime popularity in Belgrade, and any one with a large circle of acquaintances had to pay at least 40 or 50 visits.

The proceedings begin with a religious ceremony. In the morning the whole family and as many friends as possible assemble in the principal room of the house.

Then the various members of the family advance in turn, kiss the crucifix and receive a blessing over the head. After this all begin to sing, while the pope takes up the cake, turns it over, and dextrally cuts it so that it may easily be broken in halves.

On most "slava" days a kind of corn pudding is also a prominent feature. This is the same offering as is carried in front of a funeral. At Michaelmas and on the day of Elijah (who is also a saint in the orthodox calendar) it is omitted, because he and St. Michael still live.

Elijah is regarded as the patron of thunder, and there is a legend that if he ever came to know of his day he would make such an uproar in the heavens that half the world would be killed by his lightnings.

After the evening chores were done, my father would appear in the doorway with the big black-log coated with snow, often of ampler girth than himself, and fully breast-high to him as he held it upright, canting it one way and another, and walking it before him on its wedge-shaped end.

THE OLD WOOD FIRE.

It Seemed a Thing Alive as It Snapped and Spattered on the Hearth.

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Speaking of the decline of the old-time gypsies and the causes thereof, Richard Bucklin said: "The advance of civilization is mainly responsible for the gradual extinction of the English gypsies.

One hears a great deal about the glaciers of Alaska, and it is satisfactory to know that Uncle Sam possesses a few more important ice rivers of his own.

New Kind of Cheese.

Making Italian cheese is a new industry which is attracting attention in New Jersey. Many cheese factories have sprung up, and tomato canners have turned to cheese making to utilize the oversupply of tomatoes.

THE HALF-HOLIDAY CUSTOM.

It is Thought to Have Arisen from a Southern Institution of a Long Time Ago.

"Before the war, Saturday, or the last half of the day, was called 'negro day,'" said a man with a penchant for the curious, in the New-Orleans-Herald.

There are many negroes throughout the agricultural sections of the south now who would never think of claiming the half holiday Saturday. They toil after 12 o'clock just as they toiled before the noon hour.

But I was thinking that the half holiday plan, which has become so popular in other lines of business and industry, is after all, the outgrowth of the old idea of the black man.

Every Sunday a number of young people from Philadelphia journey to Ardmore and visit one of the two gypsy camps which are situated on the outskirts of that pretty suburb.

Both Bucklin and Robertson are of the pure Romany stock, and they agree in deploring the decline of the old-time gypsy and the filing of his place by tramp fakins.

Richard Bucklin, who is 65 years old, is still strong and sturdy and walks with a firm stride that is a testimonial of the healthfulness of the life he leads.

Although far away from their mother country, the family feeling which exists among the tribes there is still alive in the Bucklins and the Robertsons, and they completely ignore each other's presence.

Our Great Ice Rivers. One hears a great deal about the glaciers of Alaska, and it is satisfactory to know that Uncle Sam possesses a few more important ice rivers of his own.

Forestry in Saxony. Saxony has one of the best regulated systems of forestry in the world, the net profits from the forests amounting annually to over \$2,000,000.

Town Under Sand. Only the church steeple at Zudy-cotce, near Dunkirk, now rises above the sand which overwhelmed the entire village in 1777.

Insulted the Police. For uttering a strong expression of disapproval while quarreling with a constable at Vienna a nobleman has been fined for insulting the police.

Entirely Fearless. Lady (not liking the look of her new servant)—Did you have any words with your late mistress as you were leaving your last place?

An Exception to the Rule. "Yes," said the train robber, reflectively, "our business is peculiar. In our line the demand for goods comes from us and the supply from the public."

COST A PRETTY SUM.

Ceremonies at Durbar Required Expenditure of \$10,000,000.

Lord Curzon Praised for So Successfully Carrying Out a Spectacle Which Was Unique in the Annals of World.

Now that the magnificence of the durbar has gone, people are counting the cost. Including the bill the Indian government will have to pay, the expenditures incurred by the Indian princes and chiefs and the English governors and lieutenant governors, it is safe to say that at least \$10,000,000 has been spent in furnishing a spectacle unique in the annals of the world.

The Indian government's bill is likely to exceed \$3,750,000. The cost to Lord Curzon personally has been very great, for a large number of guests were entertained by him entirely at his own expense.

The expenses of the native princes and chiefs vary greatly, from the \$500,000 said to have been spent by the Nizam of Hyderabad to the \$50,000,000 for which sum the minor chiefs were able to make but an indifferent display.

The governors of Madras and Bombay and lieutenant governors of the several provinces found it possible by the exercise of careful European supervision to keep down the complete cost of their camps to about \$75,000.

The ball in the Dewaniam was the most gorgeous scene, as the investiture was the most stately, but the wearisome state entry into Delhi was very remarkable as an example of organization.

It is wonderful that no accidents occurred during the long procession of elephants, carriages, horse and foot through the streets.

Lord Curzon is to be warmly congratulated on the result of his hard work.

CHURCHES TO RUN A STORE.

Unique Thank Offering of a Novelty Dealer of Shelton, N. Y.—Gives Profits for Two Weeks.

As a thank-offering for the best Christmas trade he ever had, Charles S. DeForest, a novelty dealer of Shelton, will turn over his entire store to the local churches for two weeks, says a New York Times dispatch from Derby, Conn.

Attractive young women from the churches will act as salesladies, and the pastor will be in charge of the cashier's desk, while little misses from the Sunday schools will open the doors for the patrons and conduct them to the various departments.

IN FOURTEEN FEET OF ICE.

The Arctic Steamer Yermak Able to Plow its Way Through Thick Floor in the North.

Admiral Makarov, in an interesting paper before the Russian Imperial Geographical society, at St. Petersburg, has summed up the results attained by him in polar navigation on the Yermak.

His attempt in 1899 showed the hull was too weak to bear the pressure of the ice pack heaped up by its own motion. After strengthening and reshaping the bows, the Yermak made its second cruise in 1901.

REMARRIES TRUANT HUSBAND.

Illinois Woman Deceased Thirty Years Ago, Divorced, Widowed and Now a Bride Again.

John Sawrey, of Wheeling, Mo., and Mrs. Robert Thompson, of Shobonier, Ill., were married the other night at the home of the bride.

Thirty years ago Sawrey left Carlyle, Ill., at a time when he was city marshal. He left his wife and one child, a boy, behind. Not a word was heard of him until a few days ago, when he returned.

Sawrey went to the home of the widow Thompson, and she recognized him instantly. He proposed marriage, but she refused at first. A reconciliation followed, and the wedding was the sequel. Their ages are 63 and 60 years, respectively.

Insulted the Police. For uttering a strong expression of disapproval while quarreling with a constable at Vienna a nobleman has been fined for insulting the police.

A SULTAN ON A VOLCANO.

Strange Sport Where a Ferocious Bull is Pitted Against a Tiger, the Latter Winning.

Under the frowning brow of the most active of volcanoes of eastern Java, on a fertile but inaccessible plateau, there flourishes to this day the independent sultanate of Soloh.

Although the Dutch have been in possession of this large and fruitful island of the Moluccas for over 200 years, unsuccessful attempts at conquest have taught them to deal leniently and generously with some of the turbulent and warlike mountain people, leaving them their own rulers, laws and customs, and merely insisting that the peace be kept.

From far and wide the people flock to the capital on this occasion. Armed with business-like spears, the young men form a vast ring on a clearing, where a stand for the great ones has been erected, and the tigers and leopards, confined in collapsible cages, are hauled into the middle of the armed array.

One by one the cages are flung open and the wild beast, maddened by hunger, generally charges at once, and after a risky scuffle of more or less fierceness is caught upon and transversed by many sharp lances.

Should a particularly ferocious bull be within ken and obtainable anywhere, the sport is diversified by pitting bull against tiger. Strange to say, the bull nearly always wins, and wild and voracious is the enthusiasm should he emerge from the fearful contest the victor.

It is wonderful that no accidents occurred during the long procession of elephants, carriages, horse and foot through the streets.

Lord Curzon is to be warmly congratulated on the result of his hard work.

THE DANGER OF "STUFFING."

Some Ludicrous Mistakes That Were Made by Feasting Men of Honor.

A story used to be told of how a stout, hearty-looking man made his way from the wharf at Plymouth, England, to a ship just arrived from a foreign commission, and asked to be allowed to see over the ship's deck.

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L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

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